

# News Release

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**

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## **Water Safety Still Important During Fall and Winter Months**

WAPPAPELLO, MISSOURI – August 30, 2006: As the summer recreation season winds down, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminds outdoor enthusiasts to still use caution while enjoying water-based recreation. By keeping safety a number one priority and following a few safety tips, you can enjoy your recreational sport even more.

Wear your life jacket! Over 80 percent of boating fatality victims who drowned didn't have their life vests on! Always be prepared for emergencies by carrying a first aid kit with you to the beach or while boating. Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen. Limit your intake of alcohol or caffeine as both can dehydrate your body, making it more susceptible to heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which is often deadly! Avoid any dangerous practice, such as playing "chicken" with a Personal Water Craft (PWC) or jumping the wake of another PWC or a boat. Always stay aware of your surroundings and file a float plan before getting underway. As a reminder, kite tubes are banned from Corps lakes, as they have caused numerous injuries and even death. Use extreme caution concerning boat fumes and do not fall prey to the silent killer of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Stay vigilant concerning safety practices and you will enjoy water recreation even more. For more information, please contact the Wappapello Lake Project Office, 10992 Highway T, Wappapello, Missouri, 63966, or call (573) 222-8562. For updated lake information call the 24-hour Information Hotline at (573) 222-8139 or toll-free at 1-877-LAKE INFO (1-877-525-3463). Ranger Willie B. Safe reminds everyone to celebrate the holiday weekend by buckling up their life jackets and seat belts!